

North Carolina Envirothon

2014 Annual Report



2014 North Carolina Envirothon
Annual Report

NC Envirothon Program

"A Natural Challenge" says it all. The Envirothon is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that engages and challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.

The Envirothon combines in-class studies with outdoor training to help students learn and experience more about soils and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife/habitat and current environmental issues.

The year-long curriculum emphasizes teamwork and higher order thinking skills such as analysis and interpretation, and now includes an oral component for high school students to help develop assessment and communication skills.

For more information, please check out the NC Envirothon on the web at www.ncenvirothon.org

Mission Statement

Provide and promote leadership in the knowledge of natural resources by offering a quality education program in: soils/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife/habitat and current issues to the teachers, students and citizens of North Carolina.

Vision

That all students have a basic, scientific knowledge of natural resources to help them become environmentally aware citizens who are able to make good decisions as adults.



NC Envirothon Committee

John Peeler—Chair

Rich Hayes—Vice Chair

Sandra Weitzel—Division SWC

Ralston James—Division SWC

Pam Stroupe—Association SWCD

Stuart Lee—NRCS Representative

Jennifer Brooks—NCCDEA Representative

Phil Ross—Host County Representative

Jason Davis—FFA Representative

Leanna Staton—Area 1 Representative

Gail Heathman—Area 1 Representative

Kelly Hoke—Area 2 Representative

Leslie Meadows—Area 2 Representative

Millie Langley—Area 3 Representative,
committee Secretary

Gail Hughes—Area 3 Representative

Charles Bass—Area 4 Representative

Susan Woodard—Area 4 Representative

Janet Stallings—Area 5 Representative

Sherry Harris—Area 5 Representative

Pam Hawkins—Area 6 Representative

Mamie Caison—Area 6 Representative

Joanna McPhatter—Area 7 Representative

Sara Hammonds—Area 7 Representative

Andy Miller—Area 8 Representative

Frankie Singleton—Area 8 Representative

Message from Committee Chair

As a NCSWCD Supervisor I would like to thank everyone throughout the state who volunteered their time and talents during this years Envirothon competition. The 24th Annual North Carolina Envirothon Competition held in Cedar Rock Park was again a successful event.

Competition was keen but the Chatham County Woods Charter School team prevailed in the high school competition.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the members of the State Envirothon Committee for their tireless efforts throughout the year making the Annual Envirothon events so successful. These dedicated resource professionals certainly raise the bar in Envirothon competition.

John Peeler

NC Envirothon Chair



NC Envirothon's new look!

In advance of the 2014 competition year, the NC Envirothon website got a new look and layout makeover. New features have been added with a more user friendly format for finding what you need.

www.ncenvirothon.org

NC Envirothon's Hats for sale

To raise funds for the NC Envirothon, the committee had hats for sale at the 2014 event.

They were such a hit, that more merchandise will be on sale at next year's

Envirothon!



Message from the Program Coordinator

Congratulations to everyone – students, advisors, resource professionals, sponsors, volunteers, and all in the Conservation Partnership!

We have just completed the 24th Annual North Carolina Envirothon! Next year we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary.

The North Carolina Envirothon has come a long way since the initial state committee planned and held that first Envirothon that had five teams competing. This year over 300 teams competed across the state in Area Envirothons.

It is exciting to think that former Envirothon students are now current team advisors, teachers, and resource professionals.

Other past Envirothon students continue to be in touch with us through our Alumni update page at www.ncenvirothon.org.

They are telling a great story about how the Envirothon has changed their lives, helped them succeed in college and in environmental careers, and encouraged them to be good Earth stewards.

Everyone involved in putting on the Envirothon loves to hear their stories.

It helps us with fund raising efforts by showing the program's accomplishments.

It reminds us why we do the program.

I wish to thank each of you for your participation, time and effort.

I am looking forward to another great year for the North Carolina Envirothon!

Sandra Weitzel
NC Envirothon
Program Coordinator

Oral Presentation Problem

Team Role

For this exercise, your team will role play a group of experts who have backgrounds in soil conservation, pasture management, forestry, and water quality. You have been consulted by a farmer who would like advice on how to best manage his land for cropland, beef cattle, and timber in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. Use your knowledge of the NC Envirothon resource materials and a copy of the Soil Survey of Moore County, North Carolina to solve this problem.

You will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to present your recommendations. Please note that points will be deducted for presentations that are less than 9 minutes in length.

Problem

Your client, a local farmer, timbered and cleared a 38 acre tract of mature pine forest this past winter. Within this tract, all tree stumps have been removed and the entire area was seeded with a mixture of annual rye and tall fescue to control erosion. Create a farm plan for this tract of land that allows the farmer to raise crops and beef cattle, while still maintaining some woodland. The farm plan should address all of the following areas:

Cropland:

- The farmer would like to grow a rotation of corn, soybeans, and wheat on approximately 25% of the tract. The farmer's highest priority is to plant crops in the area where he can grow the highest yields while still protecting the environment. Make a specific recommendation for the area

to be used for cropland.

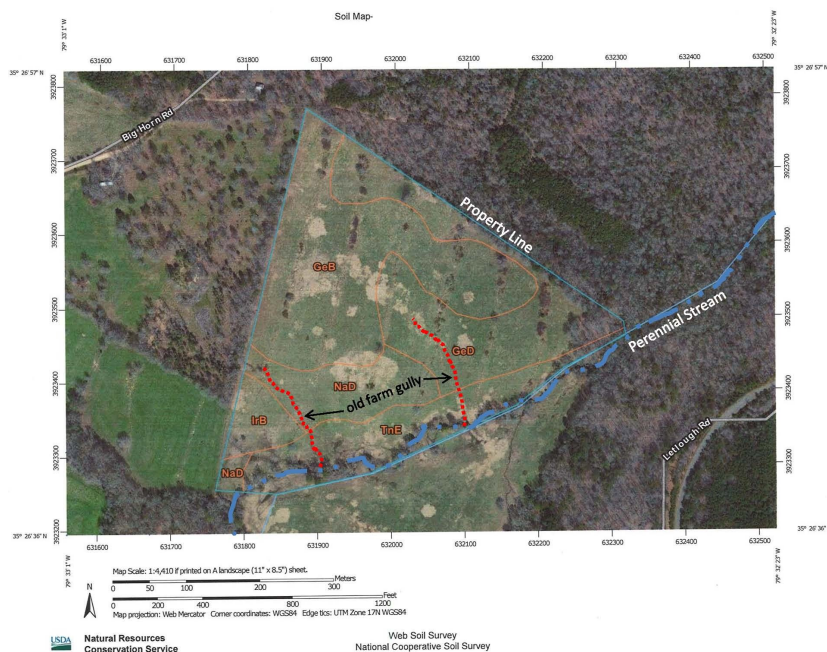
- Make specific recommendations for Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will increase soil health, improve nutrient use efficiency, improve crop productivity, conserve water, conserve topsoil, decrease use of pesticides, and improve water quality. Explain and sell the benefits of each recommended BMP.
- Provide the farmer an estimate of what crop yields (bushels per acre) they can expect if all of your recommendations are met.

Pasture:

- The farmer would like to use approximately 65% of this tract as pasture for grazing beef cattle. Pasture productivity is less important to the farmer than getting the highest yield from the cropland. Make a specific recommendation for the area to be used for pasture.
- Make specific recommendations for BMPs that will increase soil health and productivity, while promoting water quality. Explain and sell the benefits of each recommended BMP.

Woodland:

- The farmer would like to use approximately 10% of this tract for woodland. Make a specific recommendation on the species of trees to be planted and the location of the replanted area.
- Make specific recommendations for BMPs that will promote water quality.



2014 Area Envirothon competitions across NC

During the 2014 competition year, Envirothon participation increased across NC. An estimated 1,610 students participated in the eight area events.

The NC Envirothon program begins in individual counties across the state. Teams representing their local county and Soil and Water Conservation District will compete against other teams from their local area at one of Eight Area Envirothon competitions in March of each year. Areas 5 & 6 combine their Envirothons into one event, the Coastal Envirothon.

Each Area Envirothon competition will send its top seven middle school and top seven high school teams, as well as their top High School FFA team, to the state NC Envirothon competition in late April.

Here are pictures from the Area Envirothons in 2014.



Area 2

March 28, 2014

44 Middle School teams

12 High School teams



Coastal Envirothon (Areas 5 & 6)

March 18, 2014

34 Middle School teams

31 High School teams



Area 3

March 25, 2014

20 Middle School teams

28 High School teams



Area 7

March 20, 2014

3 Middle School teams

11 High School teams



Area 1

April 4, 2014

15 Middle School teams

24 High School teams



Area 4

March 21, 2014

30 Middle School teams

24 High School teams



Area 8

April 1-2, 2014

18 Middle School teams

19 High School teams

2014 NC ENVIROTHON WINNING TEAMS

TOP TEN MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

1. Organic Waste, Wilson 4-H Envirothon School, Wilson Co
2. Low pH, Wilson 4-H Envirothon School, Wilson Co
3. High Rock Hawks, Davidson County Homeschool, Davidson Co
4. Coven of Quails, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co
5. Enviro Squad, Moore County MS, Moore Co
6. High Rock Honey Locusts, Davidson County Homeschool, Davidson Co
7. Those Wild Dirty Ones, Union County Homeschool, Union Co
8. Emerald Ash Borers, Wilson 4-H, Wilson Co
9. Tar River Turtles, Association of Rocky Mount CHARM, Nash Co
10. Jarheads, Happy Valley School, Caldwell Co

TOP TEN HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

1. The Occasional Acorns, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co
2. The Mighty Minkles, Wilson 4-H Envirothon School, Wilson Co
3. High Rock FFA, Davidson Co Homeschool, Davidson Co
4. Killer Kudzu, NC School of Science and Math, Durham Co
5. The Quokkas, Edmonson Quadrangle 4-H, Johnston Co
6. Humpbox Whales Turtles, Union County Homeschool, Union Co
7. BYHS, Bartlett Yancy High School, Caswell Co
8. Nerd Herd, Washington High School, Beaufort Co
9. SNB Llamas, Cannon School, Cabarrus Co
10. Middle Mouth Bass, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co

TOP FFA TEAM

The Princesses FFA, Northeastern HS, Pasquotank Co

*As the top FFA team, 'The Princesses FFA' will represent NC at the 2014 FFA National Environmental Quality Competition

1ST PLACE COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

MS: Poplar Kids Team, East Wilkes MS, Wilkes Co - *received plaque and \$100 for the team*

HS: KFC-415 Team, Nash Central HS, Nash Co - *received plaque and \$100 for the team*

Thank You to all our Resource Specialists

Keith Walters, NC Forest Service
Philip Ramsey, NC Forest Service
Dave Gunderson, Boise Cascade
Dana Matics, US Army Corps of Engineers
Vincent Lewis, Soil Scientist
Jim Beeson, Soil Scientist
Perry Wyatt, Soil Scientist
Holly Denham, NC Division of Water Resources
Allie Geiger, NC Division of Water Resources
John Crutchfield-Duke Energy

Elizabeth Williams-Guilford SWCD
Diane Steltz-NC Forest Service
Paul Kalish-NC Forest Service
Patrick Mitchell-NC DENR Div. Water Quality
Allen Hayes, NC Div of Soil & Water Conservation
Chris Murray-Sunset Farms, Alamance Co.
Tom Shepherd-Piedmont Environmental Center
Sheila Jones-Wake S&WC District
Kelly King - NC State Parks

Thank You to all our Volunteers!

The NC Envirothon would especially like to thank the numerous volunteers who helped us during the 2014 NC Envirothon. Without your support and contributions this program and event could not have been possible. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

*Pictured are just a few of the many, many volunteers who helped over the 2 days!
Thank you ALL!!!*



Thank You to all our Oral Presentation Judges

Stephen Berry

Craig Brown

Jennifer Burdette

Jim Burke

Gary Cox

Dave Dudek

Julie Elmore

Beth Farrell

James Ferguson

Joy Fields

Dick Fowler

Tim Garrett

Julius George

Kale Gullett

Lynn Hecht

Teresa Hice

Chris Hopper

Joe Hudyncia

Kerin Hume

Peggie Joyce

Rudy Langley

Jacob Leech

Renee Leech

Diana Lewis

Michelle Lovejoy

Leslie Meadows

Katie Merritt

Sara Nichols

John Peeler

Sarah Piper

Diana Rashash

Melissa Rosebrock

Sandy Russell

Ben Russell

Frankie Singleton

Lynn Sprague

Steve Stadelman

Dennis Testerman

Shuying Wang

Norton Webster

Thomas White

Andrew Williams

David Williams

Susan Woodard

Robin Woody

John Langdon, NCASWCD
President

Keith Larick, Environmen-
tal Programs Manager,
NCDA

Chester Lowder, NC Farm
Bureau

FINALS JUDGES

Tim Beard, State Conserva-
tionist, USDA-NRCS

Dr. Janet MacFall, Elon
University

Dick Fowler, Executive Di-
rector, NCASWCD

Jerry Raynor, NRCS, Assis-
tant State Conservationist

Pat Harris, DSWC, Director

Darren Hickman, Director,
East National Technology
Center

2014 NC Envirothon teams in action



Thank You to all our Sponsors!

Financial Sponsors

NC Association of SWCD--\$15,00.00
Duke Energy Foundation - \$1,500.00
Soil Science Society of NC---\$1,000.00
NC Electric Membership Cooperation --
\$1,000.00
Farm Credit Associations of NC - \$1000
NC Peanut Growers Association - Peanuts
Burlington Lowe's Foods - bags
1191 University Dr, Burlington, NC
Sheila Jones—\$40.00

Scholarship sponsors

NC Envirothon State Committee---\$2500.00
Winning High School team scholarships
Department of Soil Science-NCSU--\$1,000.00
soils station scholarships

Partners

NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation
HHB-Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation
Society
Alamance County Parks and Recreation
NC Div. of State Parks
NC Forest Service
NC Div. of Water Resources
NC Div. of Water Quality
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
Duke Energy
Boise Cascade
Piedmont Environmental Center
NC Agricultural Education--FFA
National Conservation Foundation Envirothon
NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation
Districts
Soil & Water Conservation Districts from across
the state

NC Envirothon Trailer

The NC Envirothon was unveiled in 2013. The trailer is used to store event tents and various supplies. It also pulls double duty as a perfect backdrop for team pictures and was used quite a bit at the 2014 event. The trailer is available to all area competitions so look for it on the road coming to an event near you soon!

